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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Yasuo HIRA et al.  
Serial No.: 09/923,427  
Filed: August 8, 2001  
For: META AND CASE DATABASE DISTRIBUTED INFORMATION  
SYSTEM AND METHOD OF IMPLEMENTING RULE BASED  
SOLUTIONS TO CUSTOMER AND COMPANY SPECIFIC  
ENGINEERING PROBLEMS  
Group: 2121  
Examiner: M. Bell

**AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 3, 2005

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 4, 2004, the period for reply thereto being extended one month by the attached Petition for Extension of Time to expire March 4, 2005, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3.

**Remarks** are included following the amendments.